

While I can only mention some of the accomplishments of Weyerhaeuser Company's contribution, it is the people of Weyerhaeuser have that truly made the difference to individuals, families and the community as a whole. As one family wrote in response to the help from Weyerhaeuser volunteers, "Because of all your efforts, we are home! Words cannot truly express the outpouring of love we have received. We are eternally grateful to our Weyerhaeuser family." This shows how the assistance of strangers can surely touch one's life and make their life better and give true meaning for caring in the community.

A sign of the high caliber of individuals Weyerhaeuser employs is some of the comments that went to the gulf coast to help. One man noted, "The days were long and hot, the work was intense, but the rewards were immeasurable. This has been an experience I won't soon forget." Another volunteer employee commented, "This experience was such a blessing. I got so much more from it than I felt I gave." Even Weyerhaeuser's retirees participated and one reflected of the occasion to assist those in need saying, "Having once more the opportunity to work side by side with other Weyerhaeuser employees and retirees made me realize anew why I enjoyed working for Weyerhaeuser so much. It's all about the people and the values the company ascribes to. Thanks again."

Testimonies such as these speak volumes of Weyerhaeuser Company and its dedication to its employees and others. It goes beyond helping those who are under its employment, but it extends a helping hand to strangers to make the world a better place to live.

I am pleased that Weyerhaeuser has had a long standing tradition in Mississippi and especially in the Second District. It is without question an admirable and outstanding company that lives up to the highest meaning of community service.

Weyerhaeuser's dedication to helping others is immeasurable and I cannot thank the company enough for the work they have done and continue to do. It is truly deserving of such a prestigious award, and I am delighted to see Weyerhaeuser's efforts have been recognized by the administration. The work of their employees and retirees shows that there is no one more deserving.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDEN AREA LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Eden Area League of Women Voters celebrating their 50th Anniversary on April 13, 2007. The Eden Area League serves the communities of Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo, California.

The Hayward Area League joined with the San Leandro League in 1988 to become the Eden Area League of Women Voters.

The Hayward Area League of Women Voters was founded in 1957 by a group of Hayward, California women interested in non-partisan study of local and broader issues, and non-partisan voter education. The Hayward

Area League is an expression of the National League of Women Voters founded in 1920. The League is dedicated to enfranchising all voters, educating its members and the public on local, state and national issues, providing non-partisan public forums for candidate interviews and ballot measure discussions.

Members of the Eden Area League have devoted thousands of hours to their communities to improve voter knowledge of local, state and national issues. The members encourage community members to become involved with a special focus on educating voters on state ballot propositions, local issues and understanding governance structures.

The League, at all levels, has a well-deserved reputation for educating themselves and the public about critical public policy issues and events that shape our democratic process.

Over its 50 years of existence, the Eden Area League of Women Voters can point to a number of successful projects with pride. They have become an integral part of the cities they serve and provide an invaluable public service to our communities.

I express my heartiest congratulations to the Eden Area League of Women Voters on reaching a milestone 50th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CAROL AYER OF SPRING HILL, FLORIDA ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Ayer, the outgoing director of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in Spring Hill, Florida. Carol has served the Singers for nearly 6 years with honor and distinction. Soon, she is leaving Florida to retire with her family in Wisconsin.

Carol Ayer has dedicated her life to music. After earning her degree in Music Education, Music Performance, and English Literature from Beloit Fine Arts College in Beloit, Wisconsin, Carol taught English and music to students of various ages throughout her career. First moving to Hernando county in 1990, Mrs. Ayer joined the alto section of the Nature Coast Festival Singers in 1996. The Singers were originally founded to sing The Messiah at Christmas pageants, but have since expanded to perform Christian music throughout the year.

Carol's late husband Peter served as director and conductor from 1998 until his tragic death in an airplane crash in 2001. Following his death, Carol was named the Director and Conductor of the Nature Coast Festival Singers, and during her tenure, the number of members increased every year, with nearly one hundred members performing in this spring's concert. As Conductor the musical emphasis on The Messiah maintained the sacred or classical nature of the Nature Coast Festival Music's charter.

The Nature Coast Festival Singers also established a scholarship in memory of Peter in thanks to Carol for her years of dedication. The group adds to this scholarship fund

through the generous offerings made at concerts. The singers fund three types of scholarships, two in conjunction with the Chocochatti Magnet School and the Brooksville Music Club, and one related to the members of the Nature Coast Festival Singers. These scholarships provide funds for the study of music to elementary age children, and high school and college students.

Madam Speaker, Carol Ayer's dedication to music and the community has served as an inspiration to thousands throughout Hernando County. It is clear from the attendance at local performances that Carol's love of music has been shared by many others. Carol is to be commended for her years of service, her commitment to the Lord, and for giving back to the community and its musically inclined children. Carol Ayer is a shining example of the good that serving Jesus Christ can bring to our friends and families, and she will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTE TO YETTA G. KURLAND

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Yetta G. Kurland, of Bronx, NY. Ms. Kurland is being honored for her leadership and service to the community by the Committee for Effective Leadership and the New York State Democratic Committee. She has been an active proponent of civil rights in the New York City area for over a decade and is a lawyer who has dedicated her life to righting wrongs and truly creating a society based on "equal justice for all." The founder of her own law firm, Ms. Kurland has won some landmark victories, including those that deal with family child protections as well as a settlement against a major airline company for HIV discrimination.

She currently serves as Vice President for Communications for the Stonewall Democrats of New York City and chaired their First Annual Women's Event in June 2006. She has worked with many other organizations including the Gay Men's Chorus, Live Out Loud, and Gay Officers Action League and also sits on the executive committee of the National Lawyers Guild.

Ms. Kurland is involved in many legal associations, including the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Law Association of New York (LeGaL), the American Bar Association (ABA), the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA), the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), and the City Bar of New York. Additionally, she is the founder of Hello World Language Center, an alternative language and culture resource center, and is an adjunct professor at New York University where she teaches at the Steinhardt School of Education.

Madam Speaker, I join to wish Ms. Kurland best wishes and good fortune in her future projects.